

New Poem By Masfield

Sweep and Exhilaration in Narrative
"Reynard the Fox," a Hunting Poem

REYNARD THE FOX, OR THE GHOST OF THE HUNT, by John Masfield. The Macmillan Company, New York.

John Masfield's new narrative poem catches all the sweep and exhilaration of an English fox hunt, but without shouting, hounds baying, horses galloping, all in a clear winter day. The poet also shows another side of the hunt, usually ignored by eager sportsmen—the poor fox, with every man's hand raised against him, using all his speed and cunning, trying every shift to avoid being torn to pieces. In fact the author gives such a sympathetic picture of Reynard's flight that few readers can help rejoicing in his final escape from the pack of pursuers.

The first part of the poem, where Mr. Masfield calls the roll of the participants in the hunt, is a picture of the familiar figures on an English countryside—the squire, the hunter, the doctor, two or three elderly farmers, a number of substantial farmers and several women who enjoy riding with the hounds. In a few vigorous lines the author sets forth the character and the external appearance of the various hunters. Here is a typical characterization of the country doctor:

Quick trotting after Major Howe
Came Doctor Froome, of Quicksnow.
A smiling, silent man whose brain
Knew all of every secret side of life.
In every man and woman there
He found a secret side of life.
To him, because he touched their lives,
When scarce a horse, when scarce a man,
Brought out what sort of soul each was.

The second part of the poem is a description of the chase, from the time when the fox is roused from his lair until evening comes and the hunters return home. The hunt is described in original, but not overdone, language. The fox is described as a "ghost" and "a shadow," but the author's description is not overdone. The fox is described as a "ghost" and "a shadow," but the author's description is not overdone.

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Among Those Present

Fiction

THE HAPPY YEARS, by Inez Harnes. Published by Henry Holt & Co., New York.

The story of what happened to Phoebe and Ernest, characters in the author's earlier works, when they grew up.

THE LITTLE CHAP, by Robert Gordon. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

A short story dealing largely with little children.

THE BLUE MOON, by David Anderson. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

This novel describes the exciting life of pearl hunters in the Wabash flats of Indiana.

THE CALL OF THE SOIL, by Aileen Herland. Published by John Lane Company, New York.

This story of the lives of several French soldiers in the trenches, written by a man who lost his life in the war, received the Goncourt prize in 1918.

STATION X, by G. McLeod. Winner. Published by G. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.

A fanciful story of a battle fought by the inhabitants of Mars to gain control of the earth.

WHAT HAPPENED TO INGER JOHANSEN, by Emily Post. Published by Lathrop, Lee & Shepard Company, Boston.

A humorous story, translated from the Norwegian, of the adventures of a lively little girl.

THE BLUE RIDGE, by Ethel and James Dorrance. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

A tale of the mountains where moon-shining flourishes.

THE SHINING HILL-TOP, by Julia M. Searns. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

Sketches of California life and scenery.

DEATH AND PATRIOTISM, by Eira A. Smith. Published by Lathrop, Lee & Shepard Company, Boston.

One hundred and fifty varied selections indicating the lessons of patriotism.

THE CAUSES AND MEANING OF THE GREAT WAR, by William F. Gray. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

A brief summary of the causes, history and results of the war.

WITNESSING EYES, by Harold Morton Williams. Published by Lathrop, Lee & Shepard Company, Boston.

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Barbours. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

Another football story by this popular boys' writer.

THE GIRL IN THE MIRROR, by Homer Greene. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., Philadelphia.

A patriotic story of a young American Guardsman who shows his mettle in an emergency.

THE HILLTOP TROOP, by Arthur M. Hays Sulzberger. Published by Houghton, Mifflin & Company, Boston.

A story of two rival groups of village boys.

WINTER ANN, by Ethel Caldwell Phillips. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

A story for little girls.

IRISHMAN FAIRY TALES, by William G. Cullen. Published by Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York.

A collection of fairy tales new in background.

THE CALL OF THE SOIL, by Aileen Herland. Published by John Lane Company, New York.

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"Joy in the Morning"

Mrs. Andrews Sees the Inspiring Side of War

JOY IN THE MORNING, by Mary Andrews. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

A spirit of exalted patriotism is expressed in this collection of war stories. The author describes the subtle in the plot, many of them deal with the familiar theme of a man overcoming his physical aversion to the horrors of the trenches through his sense of duty and the influence of his loved ones. Mrs. Andrews gives a stirring picture of America at war, the men vying with each other in their eagerness to reach the front, the women united in a spirit of fervent patriotic devotion and service.

There is a touch of the fairy tale, of unreality about one or two of the stories. The author describes the illiterate young Russian, assisted to enlist by an American judge, saving his benefactor's life on the battlefield and marrying the lady of his dreams, in true stock-and-trade fashion. Mrs. Andrews displays an excellent quality of romantic imagination in "Diondond's Destroyer," the story of a young English hero who destroyed the German navy by a miracle, and at the moment when the war seemed lost.

Mrs. Andrews achieves a strong dramatic effect in "The Dutch," an irregular drama based upon the death of an American soldier after a desperate charge. The author tells how the grave of this gallant band was visited with tenderness and love a century afterward by French children and by American descendants of the dead who fell there. Here, as throughout the book, the author insists that the war is a tragedy, but that it is a tragedy that is being fought for a purpose, and that the purpose is worth the sacrifice.

Mrs. Andrews often refers to the grim aspects of the conflict for the purpose of emphasizing the heroism of the men who fought in it, but she does not dwell upon the more pleasant side of the war, upon the fond farewells, the expressions of high patriotism, the comforting reminiscences after the war. The war is a tragedy, but it is a tragedy that is being fought for a purpose, and that the purpose is worth the sacrifice.

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